

A Letter regarding Fearing Hill

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Cc: Jim Munise <jmunise1@verizon.net>;

Today, I'm writing as a concerned Wareham citizen and scientist. The Fearing Hill Solar array project is an ill-conceived project for the Town of Wareham. Items below are some points to consider.

- The solar array will have an overwhelming environmental impact of clearing a large track of wildland that is in an important watershed of the Weweantic River. It will be an excessive amount of wildlife habitat loss and create increase damaging overland flow. The removal of material to level the site is an abomination to this historical landscape.
- The Town of Wareham has made a considerable investment in conservation and outdoor recreation in the surrounding parcels. The conservation areas of Fearing Hill, Westgate, Anderson, and Horseshoe Pond represent extensive efforts in conservation and are enjoyed by hundreds of residents and visitors each year. A solar array adjacent to these properties would degrade their conservation and recreation values. Additional significant investments by the Buzzards Bay Coalition has restored the Horseshoe Pond area of the Weweantic River. This project will have a negative impact on that important work.
- Fearing Hill has historical value. It is the location of the homestead of one of the Town's founding fathers. Consider that the Fearing Family choose that very landscape to build their estate. There is history and archeological potential on that hill that will be forever destroyed by this project.
- The site proposed for this array has been identified as prime forest land of state-wide and local importance. At about 17% protected open space, the Town of Wareham is well below the state average which is now over 26%. Wareham is not keeping up with neighboring communities in protecting the environment and preparing for climate change.

Please adhere to your obligation as agents of the Town to uphold the bylaws and environmental regulations as they apply to this project. There should not be any variances allowed for this extremely unpopular endeavor. Also, I would strongly urge you to consider and support any pathway for conservation for this parcel. That should be its destiny.

Sincerely,

Kevin Bartsch

Wareham, MA